



# City of Seattle

Mike McGinn, Mayor

## Seattle Freight Advisory Board

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Alon Bassok, Vice Chair

Warren Aakervik

Linda Anderson

Bari Bookout

Eric Candelaria

Terry Finn

Chris Martin

Mike Sheehan

Bob Viggers

Cameron Williams

The Seattle Freight Advisory Board shall advise the City Council, the Mayor, and all departments and offices of the City in development of a functional and efficient freight system and on all matters related to freight and the impact that actions by the City may have upon the freight environment.

City Council Resolution  
31243

## Seattle Freight Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

**Date/Time:** February 21, 2012 / 9:30 a.m.

**Location:** Seattle City Hall, L280

**Members Present:** Warren Aakervik, Alon Bassok, Bob Viggers

**Guests Present:** Thomas Noyes and Barbara Ivanov (WSDOT), Jodie Vice (CleanScapes), Jordan Royer (Pacific Merchant Shipping), Susie Burke

**City Staff Present:** Dongho Chang, Chris Eaves, Charlie Bookman, Tracy Krawczyk, Cristina VanValkenburgh, Kevin O'Neill, Kristen Simpson (all SDOT), Kristian Kofoed (DPD)

### 1. Welcome and Introductions

Board members, city staff, and other attendees introduced themselves.

### 2. Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### 3. Approval of Minutes

The November 2011 minutes were approved.

### 4. Chair's Report and Announcements

Alon Bassok chaired the meeting and reported that the chairs and vice chairs of the three boards met with SDOT Deputy Director Goran Sparrman and other SDOT staff on Friday 2/17 to discuss the Waterfront Seattle project. Alon noted that this is a good time in the project's timeline for comments to be heard. He reported that much of the discussion was about balancing the needs of different modes, and that the city is trying to give each mode what they need, but probably not everything they want.

Alon also mentioned the recent proposal for a new sports arena just south of the current sports facilities in the SODO area. There is little information yet about possible impacts, but members mentioned impacts to traffic, especially from games that start or end during peak commute times, the possible closure of Occidental Street, and changes to land use as issues that would interest the board.

### 5. Spokane/Chelan/Marginal Proposed Intersection Improvements

Dongho Chang began the presentation by introducing himself as Seattle's new City Traffic Engineer and manager of the Traffic Operations group in SDOT's Traffic Management division.

Seattle Municipal Tower, 700 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Suite 3800, PO Box 34996, Seattle, WA 98124-4996

Tel: (206) 684-4103 Tel: (206) 684-5000 Fax: (206) 684-5180

Web: [www.seattle.gov/sfab/](http://www.seattle.gov/sfab/)

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He has worked for WSDOT and as the city traffic engineer for the city of Everett. Everett has port and Navy facilities, a strong manufacturing base, and at-grade and grade-separated rail crossings, so he is familiar with some of the issues related to freight mobility.

Dongho and Chris Eaves then described a planned improvement project for the five-way intersection of South Spokane Street, West Marginal Way, and South Chelan Street. The project will reduce driver confusion by improving signage roadway markings. The project is in the early planning stages and board members provided suggestions for additional signs to improve driver guidance.

## **6. Street Tree Ordinance**

Nolan Rundquist, Seattle's City Arborist, presented proposed changes to Seattle's street tree ordinance, which has not been updated since 1961. The proposed ordinance:

- Makes it illegal to damage or destroy any street tree
- Regulates attachment of holiday lights
- Prohibits topping, spurring, attaching signs or objects
- Prohibits placement of construction debris adjacent to trees
- Regulates the storage of materials adjacent to right-of-way trees

It also:

- Describes the process and procedures for applying for a permit
- Defines criteria for granting planting, pruning or removal permits
- Establishes authority to require a replacement tree when a removal permit is granted
- Allows minor pruning of 2" inch diameter limbs or less without a permit
- Clarifies SDOT and property owner responsibilities for tree maintenance
- Gives city authority to perform emergency work on privately owned ROW trees
- Establishes criteria by which a tree can be deemed a public nuisance
- Retains SDOT's authority to order the maintenance of a right-of-way tree to ensure public safety.

Board members commented on the importance of maintaining visibility in industrial areas and on major truck streets.

More information about the proposed ordinance:

[www.seattle.gov/transportation/treeordinance.htm](http://www.seattle.gov/transportation/treeordinance.htm)

More information about street trees:

<http://web1.seattle.gov/SDOT/StreetTrees/>

To report overgrown vegetation on private property:

[http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/compliance/filing\\_a\\_complaint/default.asp](http://www.seattle.gov/dpd/compliance/filing_a_complaint/default.asp)

To report immediate tree concerns, such as foliage blocking signs:

206 684-TREE (8733)

## **7. Innovations in Urban Freight**

Alon Bassok presented highlights of the first annual “Innovations in Urban Freight” workshop held in Seattle on February 6th and 7th. The workshop included international participants from Canada, China, Italy, Norway and Taiwan, as well as representation from the academic, private and public sectors. The case study presented about cordon tolling in Rome; Italy was suggested to perhaps have useful insights for Seattle, based on the locations of small distribution centers near the downtown core. Many of the board members and interested parties in attendance at the February SFAB meeting had also attended the workshop and discussed other topics of interest.

## **8. Major Truck Streets Map and Freight Data**

Alon Bassok led a discussion of the Major Truck Streets map, and possible changes that could be made as part of future freight planning. Members identified connections to and from I-5 and SR 99 as being important, including the ability of larger trucks to make the turns on those connections. North and NW 85<sup>th</sup> St (between I-5 and 15<sup>th</sup> NW) was mentioned as an alternate route to Interbay when Holman Road is congested.

Kristen Simpson described the current freight volume collection program. Two years ago, SDOT began systematically collecting freight volume data (truck counts by classification) on all arterials that are part of the annual traffic volume count program. Truck counts are collected on one-quarter of those arterials every year, so truck counts are collected on any given arterial once every four years. The data is being mapped as it becomes available.

## **9. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

The next meeting is scheduled for March 20, 2012, 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., Seattle City Hall Boards and Commissions Room L280.